

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Initially, it is noted that an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was filed on May 17, 2005. The references cited on lines AO, AP, AQ, and AR have not yet been acknowledged or made of record by the Examiner. A statement of relevancy was submitted with the IDS in an English-language version of the search report. Thus, the references listed on lines AO, AP, AQ, and AR of this IDS must be considered as explained in MPEP § 609.04(a)(III):

Where the information listed is not in the English language, but was cited in a search report or other action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance can be satisfied by submitting an English-language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

Claims 1-9, 13-23, and 27 are pending in the present amendment. Claims 10-12, 24-26, and 28 and Claims 1-9, 13-23, and 27 are amended by the present response. Support for amendments to the claims can be found in the disclosure as originally filed. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 6, 10, 13, 14, 20, 21, and 26 were objected to as including informalities; Claims 1-4, 8-18, and 22-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Lockridge et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. No 2003/0110240, herein Lockridge); and Claims 5-7 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Lockridge in view of Nessett et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,865,673, herein Nessett).

With regard to the objection to Claims 1, 6, 10, 13, 14, 20, 21, and 26 as containing informalities, Applicants have amended the claims to overcome the objection. Accordingly,

Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claims 1, 6, 10, 13, 14, 20, 21, and 26 be withdrawn.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 1-4, 8-18, and 22-28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Lockridge, applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The outstanding Office Action in page 4 relies upon paragraph [0020], lines 5-10 of Lockridge to describe “a registration permission judgment unit for confirming whether or not there is an empty slot in the MAC list and judging as that a registration is permitted only if there is the empty slot, in a client registration process based on a received packet at the reception unit” as recited in Claim 1.

Lockridge describes a router that determines the IP and MAC addresses associated with the detected statically configured network device.¹ The router then compares the detected IP and MAC addresses to a list of active IP and MAC addresses in the LAN.² The router determines whether there is a conflict between the statically configured network device and another device connected to the LAN.³

In contrast, amended Claim 1 recites, in part,

a storage unit storing a MAC list in which information for one client is set as registration data for one slot, the MAC list being composed of a pre-determined number of slots that define a corresponding predetermined number of clients that are granted permission to access the information processing apparatus;

a registration permission judgment unit for confirming whether or not there is an empty slot in the MAC list and judging that a registration is permitted only if there is the empty slot in the MAC list, in a client registration process based on a received packet at the reception unit

Applicants respectfully submit that detecting whether there is another device conflicting with a MAC address on a network as described by Lockridge does not anticipate

¹ See Lockridge ¶ 0020.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

confirming “whether or not there is an empty slot in the MAC list and judging that a registration is permitted *only if there is the empty slot in the MAC list*” as recited in Claim 1. Lockridge only describes a router that determines the IP and MAC addresses associated with the detected statically configured network device.⁴ The router compares the detected IP and MAC addresses to a list of active IP and MAC addresses in the LAN.⁵ However, Lockridge does not describe confirming “whether or not there is an empty slot in the MAC list and judging that a registration is permitted only if there is the empty slot in the MAC list” where “the MAC list is composed of a pre-determined number of slots.”

Further, applicants respectfully submit that a “routing table” as described by Lockridge does not anticipate “a MAC list composed of a pre-determined number of slots that define a corresponding predetermined number of clients that are granted permission to access the information processing apparatus” as recited in amended Claim 1. Lockridge does not describe the composition or use of a “routing table”.⁶ The Microsoft Computer Dictionary describes a routing table as “a table of information that provides network hardware with direction needed to forward packets of data to locations on other networks.”⁷ This description of a “routing table” does not describe any limits on the number of entries and further defines a “routing table” as only used for forwarding packets of data to locations on other networks. Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not equate a “routing table” as described in Lockridge with “a MAC list composed of a pre-determined number of slots that define a corresponding predetermined number of clients that are granted permission to access the information processing apparatus” as recited in amended Claim 1.

⁴ See Lockridge ¶ 0020.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ See Lockridge ¶ 0021.

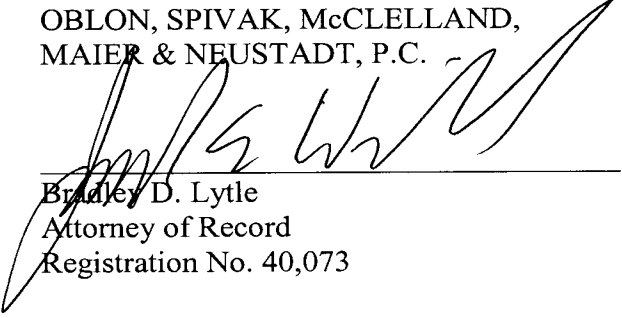
⁷ See JOANNE WOODCOCK ET AL., Microsoft Computer Dictionary Fourth Edition, page 390 (Microsoft Press 1999).

In view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 (and any claims dependent therefrom) patentably distinguish over Lockridge. Claims 10, 13, 15, 24, 27, and 28 recite elements analogous to those of Claim 1. With respect to the further cited references, Applicants respectfully submit that the further cited Nessett reference is not believed to overcome the above-noted deficiencies of Lockridge.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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